

thereof, and a substantially rigid section of thermoplastic having defined at a first location thereof at least one element of a tongue and groove arrangement which mates with the at least one element of the flexible section, the elements of the tongue and groove arrangement being bonded together, the bonding of the elements of the tongue and groove arrangement occurring during coextrusion of the flexible and substantially rigid sections.

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13.(NEW) The extrusion according to claim 12, wherein the at least one element of the tongue and groove arrangement of the flexible section includes a tongue element, and the at least one element of the tongue and groove arrangement of the substantially rigid section includes a groove element.

14. (NEW) The extrusion according to claim 12, wherein the at least one element of the tongue and groove arrangement of the substantially rigid section includes a tongue element, and the at least one element of the tongue and groove arrangement of the flexible section includes a groove element.

15.(NEW) The extrusion according to claim 12, further comprising at least a second substantially rigid section of thermoplastic having defined at a first location thereof at least one element of a tongue and groove arrangement which mates with at least one element of a tongue and groove arrangement defined at a second location of the flexible section, the elements of the tongue and groove arrangements being bonded together, the

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bonding of the elements of the tongue and groove arrangements occurring during
coextrusion of the flexible and substantially rigid sections.

Please amend the following claims:

✓ In claims 5, 7, and 9, change "4" to -- 15 -- .

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending; claim 11 stands withdrawn, claims 1-10 stand rejected; claims 1-4, 10, and 11 have been canceled herein; claims 12-15 have been added herein; and claims 5, 7, and 9 have been amended herein.

Withdrawn claim 11 has been canceled to expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application claiming the subject matter of claim 11.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being clearly anticipated by Francis Jr. *et al.* '132 (Francis). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Francis. These rejections are traversed as follows.

Newly submitted claims 12-15, which replace claims 1-4, recite in pertinent part "A unitary extrusion comprising a *coextruded member* formed by a flexible section of thermoplastic